

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Examiner is kindly requested to acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority by marking Boxes 12(a)(3) in the next Patent Office communication. The present application claims foreign priority to Japanese Application No. 2002-342442. A certified copy of the priority document was received by the Patent Office from the International Bureau on May 9, 2005, and is viewable in the Image File Wrapper on the Patent Office's PAIR website.

By this Amendment, the Abstract and Claims 4 and 5 are amended, and Claim 11 is added. Thus, Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending in this application. Independent Claim 1 is the only independent claim. Support for the amendment to Claim 5 and for new Claim 11 can be found, for example, in Figs. 1-3 of the present application. No new matter is added.

The Official Action objects to the Abstract because of an informality. The Abstract is amended to obviate the objection. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action objects to Claim 4 because of minor informalities. Claim 4 is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects Claims 1 and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,447,230 to Gula et al. ("Gula"); and rejects Claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gula in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,734,091 to Boyle et al. ("Boyle"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim is directed to a liquid transfusing tube comprising a tube constituting a liquid transfusing channel, a connector provided at one end part of the tube, and a connection part provided on the other side of the tube and connected to the side of a containing part containing a transfusion. The connector includes a male connector and a female connector, and the axis of the male connector and the axis of the female connector substantially coincide with each other. Gula fails to disclose, in combination with the other recited features, the Claim 1 connector.

Gula discloses an intravenous administration set assembly 10 having tee fittings 26 and a number of tubings — a feeding tubing 16, a PVC tubing 38, another section of tubing 46, and an additional tubing 56 (see Fig. 1 of Gula). The Official Action takes the position that the tee fitting 26 corresponds to the claimed connector. However, the tee fittings 26 are attached at their ends to adjacent fittings 26 (see col. 3, lines 22-25) except for the upper and lower tee fittings 26 which are connected to a female luer lock adapter 24 and a fluid filter 32, respectively (see Fig. 1). That is, none of the tee fittings 26 are provided at any of the tubings 16, 38, 46 and 56. Thus, Gula fails to disclose, in combination with the other recited features, a connector including a male connector and a female connector and *provided at one end part of the tube* constituting a liquid transfusing channel as recited in independent Claim 1. Therefore, Claim 1 is patentable over Gula for at least these reasons.

Claims 3-10 are patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their dependence from patentable independent Claim 1, as well as for the additional features these claims recite. For example, Claim 5 recites that the other of the male connector and the female connector of the connector of the liquid transfusing tube is

exposed as an open connection port to receive a male or female connector of the another liquid transfusing tube. On the contrary, as shown in Fig. 1 of Gula, none of the longitudinal ends of the tee fittings 26 (which the Examiner interprets as axially coinciding male or female connectors) is open to receive a male or female connector of the another liquid transfusing tube when the tubing 16 (said to correspond to the claimed liquid dosing part) is connected with the tubings 38 and 46 (said to correspond to the claimed liquid transfusing tube).

As a result of the Claim 5 combination of features, an open port for connection of another liquid transfusing tube is always present, and the possibility of the number of the connection ports being insufficient upon a sudden change in the condition of the patient is reduced. Accordingly, the liquid transfusing line (liquid transfusing route) can be extended quickly and assuredly (see Figs. 1-3 and lines 12-22 on page 28 of the present application). In Gula, the number of tee fittings 26 is limited to the number existing when the intravenous administration set 10 is assembled (for example only six tee fittings 26 can be used in the example shown in Fig. 1 of Gula).

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is presented for consideration and recites that the connector is directly connected to the tube. As discussed above, none of Gula's tee fittings 26 are directly connected to any of the tubings 16, 38, 46 and 56. Thus, Claim 11 is patentable over Gula for at least this reason, as well as by virtue of its dependence from patentable independent Claim 1.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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